

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04440 121310Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5163

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JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR AKINS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, SA

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO ARAB-ISRAELI FIGHTING

1. BANNERLINES DUTIFULLY REFLECT CLAIMS OF ARAB VICTORIES:
116 ENEMY PLANES DOWNED ON THE TWO FRONTS--MORE EGYPTIAN
TROOPS CROSS THE CANAL CHANTING ALLAHU AKBAR--EGYPTIAN AIR-
CRAFT BOMB MILITARY POSITIONS NEAR RED SEA.
2. OTHER HEADLINES REPORT ALLEGED U.S. AIR AND FLEET
MOVEMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN: NEWS OF AMERICAN FLEET ENTERING
ISRAELI PORTS AND CONTINUED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ARABS--
TURKEY AND CYPRUS CONFIRM THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN PERMISSION TO
USE THEIR BASES AGAINST ARAB STATES.
3. FRONT PAGE AFP ITEM DATED LINED WASHINGTON CARRYS
LEAD: "THE PENTAGON IS PREPARING TO SEND AMMUNITION-ESPECIALLY
OF THE ANTI-TANK VARIETY-TO ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY." ITEM ALSO
NOTES PENTAGON STUDYING POSSIBILITY SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 04440 121310Z

PHANTOMS FROM AMERICAN AIRBASES IN WESTERN EUROPE.

SUPPORTING STORY IS AP WIRE PHOTO OF ISREALI BOEING 707 ON VIRGINIA BEACH RUNWAY WITH CAPTION: "ISRAELI BOEING 707 BEING LOADED WITH JU-JU MISSILES, BOMBS AND AMMUNITION AFTER ITS STAR OF DAVID TAIL INSIGNIA HAS BEEN COVERED."

4. EDITORIAL REACTION LIGHT TODAY (RAMADAN FRIDAY) WITH ONLY TWO PAPERS PUBLISHED. SOLE EDITORIAL IN AL-BILAD MUSES OVER CLAIMS HUGE ISRAELI AIR LOSSES: "FOR ISRAEL TO LOSE 100 PLANES ON THE TWO FRONTS IN ONE DAY IS SOMETHING EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT. FIRST, A FRONT THAT CAN WITHSTAND AIR STRIKES FROM THE EARLY MORNING UNTIL THE EVENING AND SHOOT DOWN 100 PLANES IS NO DOUBT A FRONT HAVING EXTRAORDINARY FIGHTERS, BY WHATEVER CRITERION OF HEROISM THEY ARE WEIGHTED. SECOND, ISRAEL APPARENTLY HAS A HOPE THAT ANY PLANE SHE LOSES CAN BE REPLACED VERY SOON, OTHERWISE SHECOULD NOT SACRIFICE ONE HUNDRED PLANES IN ONE DAY, I.E., A QUARTER OF HER AIR FORCE POWER, PARTICULARLY WHEN ISRAELI'S LEADERS PREDICT THAT THIS WAR WILL BE LONG AND STUBBORN. IF THE AVERAGE OF LOSSES IN THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE CONTINUED, IT WOULD MEAN THAT BY NEXT SATURDAY THE WHOLE ISRAELI AIRFORCE, ESTIMATED AT 400 PLANES, WOULD BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED."
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